

[4 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Out of 663 consequential train accidents during the last three years, 326 have been on account of failure of railway staff and 247 on account of failure of other than railway staff. 615 persons lost their lives and railway property worth Rs. 69.95 crore (approximate) had been damaged in these accidents.

(c) to (e) Anti Collision Device (ACD) is already installed on 1736 kilometres of Northeast Frontier Railway and the pilot project is under final Site Acceptance Testing.

Installing WCs in coaches

3334. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when new WCs would be installed in the railway coaches; and

(b) by when all the railway system all over the country would have the new WCs to avoid any desecration of railway tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Toilets in all passenger coaches of long distance trains have been provided with Water Closet (WC). Presently these discharge the waste on track. In order to improve sanitation at station areas, Controlled Discharge Toilet Systems (CDTS) are being progressively introduced in coaches. The control discharge toilets prevent discharge of waste on the tracks when the train is stationary or moving at low speeds, thereby helping to make the stations and nearby areas relatively cleaner. The waste is, however, eventually discharged on tracks away from station areas.

In order to move towards the final objective of total sanitation and zero discharge of waste from the coaches on the tracks, Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) have developed specifications for environment friendly toilets using two different technologies—

(i) Vacuum retention, storage of waste and evacuation at terminals,

(ii) Biological degradation of waste.

Field trials shall be conducted with both types of systems for gaining experience and taking further decisions. Simultaneously, under the technology mission on railway safety, RDSO and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur are also developing indigenous design for environment friendly Zero discharge toilets.

Thefts in trains

3335. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of theft in trains;

(b) whether it is fact that many cases of theft reported in the Thiruvananthapuram bound Kerala Express;

(c) if so, the details of the such cases reported since January, 2006;

(d) whether compensation has been provided to the victims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the measures taken for the safety of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is decrease in the incidents of theft of passengers' belongings during the year 2006 as compared to the previous years. During the year 2006, in all 5806 cases of theft of passengers belongings were reported in trains over Indian Railways as against 6103 cases reported during the year 2005.

(b) and (c) In Thiruvananthapuram bound Kerala Express, 6 cases of theft of passengers belongings were reported during the year 2006 and 5 cases were reported during the year 2007 (upto March).

(d) and (e) There is no provision in the rules for compensation for loss of theft of goods unless a railway servant has booked the luggage and given a receipt thereof to the passenger or it is proved otherwise that the loss was due to negligence or misconduct on the part of the railways.